



August 2, 2005

The Honorable Richard Durbin
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

On behalf of America's community, migrant, homeless, and public housing health centers and the 15 million patients they serve nationwide, we express our sincere thanks and gratitude for sponsoring S. Res. 31, commemorating the week of August 7 – 13 as National Health Center Week and recognizing health centers for their vital role in providing health care to the underserved.

Because of your strong leadership, S. Res. 31 passed the Senate by unanimous consent and with thirty co-sponsors, consisting of Republicans and Democrats alike. The passage of this resolution—and its House counterpart (H. Res. 289)—further demonstrate that health centers have the strong support of Senators and Members of Congress of both political parties. You are to be commended for your hard work and dedication towards building and maintaining this high level of support.

As you know, this year America's health centers mark a major anniversary – 40 years since the creation of the Health Centers Program. It's our hope that by the end of FY 2006, the Health Centers Program will have nearly doubled since 2000 by adding a total of 1,200 new health care delivery sites and expansions that will enable us to serve 16 million people annually.

The Proud Legacy of America's Health Centers "A Model for Today – A Solution for Tomorrow" is our theme for National Health Center Week 2005. The theme speaks to the success of the health center program over the last 40 years and the role that health centers can play in providing access to health care for all Americans in the future.

This year we expect Health Center Week will feature many events with community leaders, governors, mayors, Members of Congress, and top Administration officials. Indeed, the recognition of this week's activities would not be possible without your efforts in the Senate.

We commend you for your leadership, your dedication, and your commitment to America's health centers, and we thank you once again for sponsoring this resolution and for your hard work to achieve its passage.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Hawkins, Jr.
Vice President for Federal, State, and Public Affairs